3/A 70 10/15/V) PATENT

Practitioner's Docket No.: 892_019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Aki

Akira WAKABAYASHI

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For:

ONLINE TRADING SYSTEM

Box Patent Application Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington DC 20231 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1-10 addressed to the Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on July 19, 2001, under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL803164305 US.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 5-9 as follows:

5. (Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3 further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up, wherein, if the article is to be sold to a bid submission received by said prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the highest price of the bid submission received by said bid submission receiving means.

6. (Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3 further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up; and

starting-price-storing-means for storing a starting price of the auction, wherein, if there is no bid submission at the auction but a bid submission is received via the communicating

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